

BEYOND THE LOCAL AREA

COMMUNITY PROFILES

Bakersfield

Chamber of Commerce

1725 Eye St. • Bakersfield, CA 93301

(661) 327-4421, www.bakersfield.org/chamber

Bakersfield is the seat of Kern County, at the heart of California's "Golden Empire."

The substantial community is located approximately 85 miles west of Edwards along California State Highway 58. The downtown hosts more than 138 retail establishments, financial institutions, theaters and restaurants. Valley Plaza, located on Ming Avenue and Highway 99, has more than 100 stores and serves as the regional shopping center.

Barstow

Chamber of Commerce

409 E. Fredericks St., Suite 216, P.O. Box 698

Barstow, CA 92311

(760) 256-8617, www.exploring-barstow.com

Barstow is located midway between the popular tourist destinations of southern California and Las Vegas, Nev., approximately 50 miles east of Edwards. Situated at the crossroads of interstate 15 and 40, and state highways 58 and 247, the community provides outlet mall shopping with more than 95 outlet stores.

California Division of Tourism

P.O. Box 1499 • Sacramento, Calif. • 95812-1499

(800) 862-2543 • <http://gocalif.ca.gov>

From Edwards, all of California is at your doorstep. The California Office of Tourism can provide a wealth of information regarding the myriad of activities and outdoor recreation offered by the Golden State.

Hollywood

Chamber of Commerce

7018 Hollywood Blvd. • Hollywood, CA 90028

(323) 469-8311, <http://hollywoodcoc.org>

Hollywood is famous as a movie-making town and the home of many stars. Some of its attractions include Mann's Chinese Theatre, the Walk of Fame, Hollywood studio and backlot tours, and live filming. Mann's Chinese Theatre is renown for hosting the handprints and footprints of the entertainment industry's major stars imprinted in concrete in front of the theater, located at 6925 Hollywood Blvd. A section of the Walk of Fame, where more than 2,000 famous celebrities' names are engraved in stars along the sidewalk, is also found on Hollywood Boulevard. Many sightseeing tours are also available to get a sneak peek at film studios and backlots, Hollywood landmarks, and celebrity homes.

ABC, CBS and NBC television studios offer a variety of audience participation shows. Advance application is recommended as some shows have waiting lists up to six months. Ticket requests must include a stamped return envelope and must indicate the name of the desired show, plus the desired date.

AMUSEMENT PARKS & ATTRACTIONS

Disneyland

1313 Harbor Blvd.

Anaheim, Calif.

(714) 781-4400

<http://disney.go.com/Disneyland>

One of America's favorite amusement parks is located in Anaheim, approximately 130 miles south of Edwards. Disneyland features six different theme areas: Tomorrowland, Frontierland, Fantasyland, Adventureland, Bear Country and New Orleans Square. Each area features rides and exhibits to match its theme. Adjacent to Disneyland is Disney's California Adventure theme park, as well as the new Downtown Disney District.

Knott's Berry Farm

8039 Beach Blvd.

Buena Park, Calif.

(714) 220-5200

www.knotts.com

This family attraction, located 130 miles south of Edwards, features a variety of thrill rides and theme areas, including Old West Ghost Town, Fiesta Village, Wild Water Wilderness and Camp Snoopy.

San Diego Zoo

Balboa Park, San Diego, Calif.

(619) 234-3153

www.sandiegozoo.org

The San Diego Zoo is one of the largest zoos in the world and encompasses more than 100 landscaped acres of tropical and subtropical vegetation. More than 3,200 animals from 800 species, some of which are the rarest specimens in the world, can be witnessed in their unique habitats in barless, moated enclosures. A children's zoo allows children the chance to pet the gentler animals.

Las Vegas

Chamber of Commerce
3720 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 100
Las Vegas, NV 89109
(702) 735-1616, www.lvchamber.com

Las Vegas is a city that never sleeps and boasts nightlife as its biggest attraction. The city draws more than 12 million visitors annually to its gambling tables, slot machines and big-name entertainment at luxurious hotel casinos along the famous strip.

While much of Las Vegas is restricted to those over 21, it is possible for the whole family to enjoy a visit. Several of the newer resorts offer theme park rides and carnival style games of chance for younger visitors.

Also, within the vicinity of Las Vegas is Lake Mead, just a 30-minute drive away from the city. Sailing, water skiing, wind surfing, motor boating, fishing, swimming and canyon exploring are all readily available for the outdoors enthusiast. Hoover Dam, which created the lake, is considered one of the engineering wonders of the world and may be toured daily.

Las Vegas is located three and a half to four hours northeast of Edwards, a nearly straight shot along California State Highway 58 through Barstow to Interstate 15 East across the state line.



Sea World

1720 S. Shores Rd.
San Diego, Calif.
(619) 226-3901
www.seaworld.org
Sea World is one of California's most popular marine parks. The park's 135 acres are home to a vast array of sea life including Shamu, the world-famous two-ton killer whale. Live shows include the antics of dolphins, sea lions and walruses. The "Penguin Encounter" is an exhibit on two and half acres containing more than 400 penguins.

Six Flags Magic Mountain

26101 Magic Mountain Parkway
Valencia, Calif.
(661) 255-4111
www.sixflags.com/magicmountain
Spread out over 260 acres, the amusement park offers more than 100 shows, attractions and rides to keep the whole family entertained.

Universal Studios

Universal City, Calif.
(818) 508-9600
www.universalstudios.com/unicity2
Universal Studios allows visitors to sneak a peek behind the scenes of movie making. Tram rides through

backlots and studios, costumes and props, sound stages, and special effects demonstrations reveal the secrets of hit movies and television shows.

BASEBALL

Three Major League Baseball teams call southern California home.

◆ **Anaheim Angels**, (888) 796-4256, www.angelsbaseball.com
◆ **Los Angeles Dodgers**, (800) 636-3437, www.dodgers.com
◆ **San Diego Padres**, (619) 297-2373, www.padres.com

Los Angeles Metropolitan Area

www.los-angeles-california.com

Los Angeles is California's largest city, both in population and in territory—nearly 470 square miles, roughly the same size as Edwards AFB. The city ranks second in city and metropolitan area population in the United States. Los Angeles is a collection of intermingling communities, each with its own identity and character. The area thrives on tourism, world trade and highly diversified industries—predominantly oil, electronics, finance, entertainment, real estate, aircraft and aerospace.

Even with 3.5 million residents, Los Angeles is hardly a city in the traditional sense; it lacks a concentrated urban center and rather sprawls on in every direction, from sea and shore to the Hollywood hills. A dense network of interstates grid the basin and support the flux of traffic from dawn 'til dusk.

San Diego

San Diego Visitor Information Center
2688 East Mission Bay Drive
San Diego, CA, 92109

(619) 276-8200, www.infosandiego.com

Nicknamed "America's Finest City," San Diego is one of the most popular stops for tourists visiting California. For more than 200 years, this city has been attracting visitors from all over the world.

San Diego Bay is a large natural harbor that is pivotal for commerce and for the military presence in the area. The bay is home to the Navy's 3rd Fleet, which houses and maintains its ships and subs in the harbor. The U.S. Naval and Marine Training Centers and the U.S. Naval Air Station surround the bay.

San Diego is located approximately 180 miles south of Edwards, a straight southern jaunt along Interstate 15 through San Bernardino and Riverside.

◆ **Catalina Island**

Visitors Bureau and Chamber of Commerce
#1 Green Pier, P.O. Box 217
Avalon, CA 90704
(310) 510-1520
www.visitcatalina.org
Twenty-two miles across the ocean from mainland Los Angeles is Catalina Island. Discovered more than 400 years ago as a hideout for smugglers and pirates, the island is one of southern California's most popular resorts. Avalon is the island's only city, and Avalon Bay is the site of the island's most famous landmark, the Casino Building. The island can be reached by sea or air, and there are a variety of express services available.

◆ **Los Angeles County**

<http://beaches.co.la.ca.us>
Popular Los Angeles area beaches include Malibu, Santa Monica, Venice, Manhattan and Long beaches. Los Angeles County beaches offer swimming, surfing, sand volleyball, bike and roller-blade paths, piers, fishing and numerous concessions. Public restrooms and showers are usually available.

BEACHES

The beautiful and diverse terrain along the California coast offers a wealth of activities to enjoy, many of which are readily accessible from California's Pacific Coast Highway or California State Highway 1.

To the north, the water and weather are rough, giving the coastline a rugged character. To the south, the water is calmer, the beaches are wider, and the climate more temperate.

◆ **Monterey, Big Sur and Morro Bay**

www.mpcc.com, www.bigsurcalifornia.org,
www.morro-bay.net

Big Sur is a favorite stretch of California coastline, between the towns of Carmel and Lucia. For approximately 50 miles, Pacific Coast Highway 1 winds between the Pacific Ocean and a redwood forest. The Santa Lucia Mountains rise steeply from the ocean, and the canyons contain groves of trees. Summer fogs can linger most of the day; the best time to experience the route is in the afternoon.

Ocean life—whales, dolphins, sea lions and frolicking sea otters—teems off the coast and is a common site.

Sea otters are found in great numbers from Monterey Bay to Morro Bay, while sea lions are commonly seen near the shore or on the rocks. Whale watching is a popular pastime during the winter. Many seaside communities offer excursions to catch a close-up view of the California gray whale's annual 6,000-mile migration.

◆ **San Diego**

www.sannet.gov/lifeguards/beaches
The city of San Diego has about 17 miles of Pacific Ocean shores and is known nationwide for its beautiful beaches. Popular beaches in the area include La Jolla, Mission Beach, Pacific Beach and Coronado on Coronado Island. Recreational water activities such as surfing, "boogie" boarding, snorkeling, scuba diving and swimming are common at area beaches.

Mission Bay Park has become a popular spot for visitors as well as area residents. The 4,600-acre aquatic park has beaches, bike trails, boat-launching ramps, a golf course, picnic grounds, playgrounds, resort hotels and restaurants. Most visitors usually plan a full day's activities here or just a relaxing day enjoying the sun and scenery.

Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base

(760) 430-4701
Camp Pendleton's Ward Lodge is located 40 miles north of San Diego on Interstate Highway 5.

Camp San Luis Obispo

(805) 594-6500
This California Army National Guard post is located five miles northeast of the city of San Luis Obispo, California, on Pacific Coast Highway 1.

China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station

(760) 939-2383
China Lake is located 60 miles almost directly north of Edwards Air Force Base.

Coronado Naval Amphibious Base

(619) 437-3860
The island of Coronado and the naval base are located five miles south of San Diego. The accommodations are close to Coronado Beach, Sea World and a myriad of other San Diego attractions.

Fort Irwin National Training Center

(760) 380-4599
The center is located roughly 55 miles northeast of San Bernardino, Calif., and north on Interstate 15 near Barstow.

Nellis Air Force Base

(888) AF-LODGE
Nellis' Air Force Inn is located eight miles northeast of Las Vegas.

North Island Naval Air Station

(800) NAVY-INN
North Island's Navy Lodge is located five miles southwest of San Diego.

Point Mugu Naval Air Station

(805) 989-8407
Point Mugu is located eight miles south of Oxnard, Calif., and 40 miles north of Santa Monica, Calif., on Pacific Coast Highway 1.

Port Hueneme Naval Construction

(800) NAVY-INN
Port Hueneme's Navy Lodge is located 25 miles southeast of Santa Barbara, Calif.

MILITARY LODGING

The following listing is not complete, but presents some of the more popular military lodging opportunities in and around Southern Calif..

San Diego Naval Submarine Base

(619) 553-9381
The submarine base's Dolphin Lodge and Inn is located within the city limits of San Diego.

Travis Air Force Base

(888) AF-LODGE
Travis' West Wind Inn is located 45 miles northeast of San Francisco.

Vandenberg Air Force Base

(888) AF-LODGE
Vandenberg AFB, located 22 miles south of Santa Maria, Calif., offers accommodations at the Vandenberg Lodge.

MISSIONS

www.ca-missions.org/contact.html

In 1768, fearing that Russia or Britain would establish outposts in California, the Spanish formulated a plan of colonization by founding missions, forts and pueblos to secure the land for the Spanish crown.

Father Junipero Serra officiated the founding of the first establishment in San Diego. Eventually, a chain of 21 California missions would extend from San Diego to the San Francisco area. Communities have developed around most of the missions, but each—in its individual way—continues to perpetuate the flavor of the Spanish era. Every mission has its distinctive architecture and restful gardens. Many have rooms and even formal museums filled with picturesque artifacts which help visitors visualize the era when the missions were California's only points of Western European-style civilization.

The missions are open to the public. Some offer individually-guided tours, while others provide self-guided literature. Nominal admission charges or donations are requested.

MUSEUMS

Getty Center

1200 Getty Center Dr.

Los Angeles, Calif.

(310) 440-7300

www.getty.edu/museum

The Getty Center unites the J. Paul Getty Trust's museum, institutes and grant program in the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains. The centerpiece of the 110-acre complex is the museum and its collections of pre-20th century European paintings, drawings, illuminated manuscripts, sculpture, decorative arts and photographs.

Kidspace Museum

390 S. El Molino Ave.

Pasadena, Calif.

(626) 449-6840

Kidspace has exhibits and programs in the arts, sciences and humanities that promote imagination, exploration and discovery through an interactive learning environment. Hands-on exhibits include a TV studio, fire station and beach scene.

L.A. County Museum of Art

5905 Wilshire Blvd.

Los Angeles, Calif.

(323) 857-6000

The L.A. County Museum of Art is a five-building complex housing paintings, sculpture, costumes, textiles and decorative art from around the world. The collections comprise more than 150,000 works and span the history of art from ancient times to the present. In addition to presenting more than 30 exhibitions each year, the museum also sponsors concerts, film programs and lectures that complement its collections.

Movieland Wax Museum

7711 Beach Blvd.

Buena Park, Calif.

(714) 522-1155

www.movielandwaxmuseum.com/mwm.html

Visitors can see their favorite film stars—at least wax-molded figures of them—one block north of Knott's Berry Farm. Some of the most memorable scenes in motion pictures are recreated in exacting detail. The museum also has a Chamber of Horrors.

Natural History Museum of L.A. County

900 Exposition Blvd.

Los Angeles, Calif.

(213) 763-3466

www.nhm.org

The Natural History Museum has detailed habitats of African, North American and exotic mammals; birds, insects and marine life; dinosaur displays and prehistoric fossils; and mineral and cut gemstone collections. The Pavilion of Wings lets visitors walk among hundreds of free-fluttering butterflies. History galleries depict life in California from 1540 to the present.

San Diego Aerospace Museum

Aerospace Historical Center

Pan American Plaza

Balboa Park, Calif.

(619) 234-8291,

www.AerospaceMuseum.org

The history of aviation from the dawn of flight to the age of space travel is depicted through displays featuring early gliders, a Kitty Hawk Flyer, a Spirit of St. Louis replica, barnstorming, early mail planes, World War II aircraft, modern fighters and a NASA space capsule.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Big Bear Lake

Big Bear Chamber of Commerce
630 Bartlett Rd.

Big Bear, Calif.

(909) 866-4607

www.bigbeartouristbureau.com

Big Bear Lake and Valley are located about 30 miles northeast of San Bernardino in the San Bernardino Mountains. Camping and horseback riding are popular in the summer. Hunting and fishing are permitted in season.

Death Valley National Park

Death Valley, Calif.

(760) 786-2331

www.nps.gov/deva

Death Valley, located on the eastern edge of California, encompasses more than 3 million acres and has elevations ranging from 282 feet below sea level to 11,049 feet above sea level.

Sequoia and King's Canyon National Parks

Three Rivers, Calif.

(559) 565-3341

www.nps.gov/seki

Home of the largest trees in the world, King's Canyon and Sequoia national parks are open year round. Bus tours within the parks are available daily in the summer.

Yosemite National Park

Yosemite National Park, Calif.

(209) 372-0200

www.nps.gov/yose/yo_visit.htm

Yosemite's landscape spans about 1,189 square miles of parkland. Visitors can witness Yosemite Falls, which plummet 2,425 feet—11 times further than Niagara—and Half Dome, a structure halved by moving ice masses millions of years ago. The park lies in central California on the western slope of the Sierra Nevadas and serves as a getaway for hiking and camping activities.

SKIING

California features the ski slopes beyond the coastline and invites residents and visitors to take to the white-topped mountains in the San Bernardino National Forest, San Gabriel Mountains and the Sierra Nevadas. Skiing is as close as one hour away from Edwards.

◆ **Bear Mountain Ski Resort**
Big Bear Lake, Calif.
(800) BEARMTN
www.bearmtn.com

◆ **Mountain High Ski Resort**
Wrightwood, Calif.
(888) 754-7878
www.mthigh.com

◆ **June Mountain Ski Resort**
June Lake, Calif.
(888) JUNEMTN
www.junemountain.com

◆ **Snow Summit Ski Resort**
Big Bear Lake, Calif.
(909) 866-5766
www.snowsummit.com

◆ **Mammoth Ski Resort**
Mammoth Lakes, Calif.
(800) MAMMOTH
www.mammoth-mtn.com

◆ **Snow Valley Ski Resort**
Running Springs, Calif.
(909) 867-2751
www.snow-valley.com

◆ **Mount Baldy Ski Resort**
Upland, Calif.
(909) 981-3344
www.mtbaldy.com



SPACE-AVAILABLE TRAVEL

Los Angeles International Airport

- Terminal 2, Departure Level Customer Service branch: (310) 363-0714/0715 or DSN 833-0714/0715.
 - Recorded flight information: (800) 756-2640 or DSN 833-0716.
 - Marine liaison: (800) 723-3080 or DSN 833-1997/3590.
- Although Edwards has no space-available program, space-available travel, made accessible through the Air Mobility Command Gateway, is provided at Los Angeles International Airport and provides affordable travel to military members on limited flight schedules. Destinations may include Seattle; Osan, Korea; and Kadena and Misawa, Japan. Space-available sign-up may be accomplished in person or via the Internet, fax or email, at www.travis.af.mil/space_a/lasindex.htm; (310) 363-2790 or DSN 833-2790; or spacealax@travis.af.mil, respectively. Passengers are cautioned that all flights are subject to change without notice. Other military space-available travel gateways include: March Air Reserve Base, Calif., (909) 655-2397 or DSN 947-2397; Travis Air Force Base, Calif., (800) 787-2534 or DSN 837-2048; Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Wash., (877) 863-1463 or DSN 982-5555; and McChord AFB, Wash., (260) 984-5327 or DSN 982-5327.

VINEYARDS

◆ Napa Valley

www.freerun.com/napavalley/mwinerie.html

Wine is made all over Calif., but the term "Wine Country" is associated with Napa and Sonoma counties. The area is located northeast of San Francisco and has been made famous for the hundreds of wineries found in the region. State Road 29 runs throughout the valley and passes many well-known vintners. From Edwards, head north on California State Highway 58 to Bakersfield. From there, call individual wineries for specific directions.

◆ Lake County

Lake County, bordered by Napa Valley on the south and Sonoma and Mendocino counties on the west, has five wineries, four of which are open to the public. Nearly 3,000 acres of vineyards produce the award-winning wines grown there. In addition to tasting the wines, the area offers boating, fishing, water sports, camping and sightseeing.

◆ Guimarra Vineyards

Bakersfield, Calif.
(661) 395-7088

Closer to home along Edison Highway in Bakersfield, Calif., are three generations of vintners that have been producing wine on the slopes of the Sierra Nevadas, and they are justifiably proud of their product.